

SMASHING FRENCH ATTACK CAPTURED STRONG POSITIONS NEAR HAILLES AND STRENGTHENED AMEINS DEFENSE

**Wood on the West Bank of the Avre
River Taken and the Germans
Failed in Their Efforts to Dis-
lodge the New Holders**

GERMANS SUSTAINED BIG LOSSES IN THEIR COUNTER ATTACK

**German Artillery Increases the Inten-
sity of Its Fire But Thus Far the
Threatened Infantry Attacks
Have Not Been Made**

The expected renewal of the German offensive having failed to develop, the allies are continuing their tactics of anticipating the thrust by reaching out for new vantage points from which the better to resist it.

The French were the aggressors in the latest operation of this kind, carried out late yesterday. They pushed out from their lines south of Hailles, on the Somme front, their objective being a wood situated at about the point where the Germans had made their furthest westward advance, and they are within a short distance of the Paris-Amiens railway.

The operation was entirely successful, resulting in the capture of the wood, on the slopes of the Avre river, possession of which improves considerably the allied defensive position on this important sector.

The Germans evidently recognized this fact, for they countered strongly at night. Their determined attack was a failure, however, for after spirited fighting the French remained in possession of their new position, after having cut the enemy up badly with their fire, besides taking more than three score prisoners.

The artillery fire is reported by Paris to have been violent last night north of Montdidier, just to the south of this sector, where American troops are holding a portion of the front. The bombardment was severe also along the southern side of the Montdidier salient, as far east as Noyon, and the Germans attempted to attack at one point on this line but were promptly checked.

The London statement also indicates considerable activity by the hostile artillery on the British portion of the Somme front in the Somme and Ancre valleys, while this morning it increased in the region between the Somme and the Ancre, near Morlaucourt, where the Australians recently have made notable advances and where yesterday they repulsed a German effort to recapture the lost ground.

On the Flanders battlefield the Germans likewise speeded up their fire early to-day in the Kemmel sector, after having worked their guns moderately hard during the night on the southern side of the Lys salient in the Bethune and Niéppe wood regions.

Paris, May 15.—French troops yesterday evening attacked German positions near Hailles, on the front below Amiens, and captured a wood on the west bank of the Avre river, it was announced officially. The Germans made a counter attack and were beaten off with severe losses. During the night there was a violent bombardment north of Montdidier and between Montdidier and Noyon.

RUSSIANS REGAIN ROSTOV-ON-DON

Germans are Reported in Retreat from the Largest City in Don Cossack Territory.

Moscow, Friday, May 10.—(By Associated Press).—Rostov-on-Don, the largest city in the Don Cossack territory, was recaptured to-day by the Russian Soviet troops, who drove out the Germans. The Germans, who had held Rostov for only a day, are retreating.

UNINVITED KINGS ATTENDED CONFERENCE

Ludwig of Bavaria Was Unwilling to Leave German Destinies Wholly to Prussia, and He and King of Saxony Didn't Wait to Be Asked.

Zurich, Switzerland, May 15.—Both King Ludwig of Bavaria and King Frederick August of Saxony seem to have been participants in the great headquarters conference of the German and Austrian emperors, although apparently neither was invited to be present. This is indicated by a statement in the Munich Neueste Nachrichten, which says: "The hour is grave and Bavaria cannot leave Prussia to be the whole arbiter of German destinies. King Ludwig, therefore, decided to proceed to headquarters. The departure of the king of Saxony to take part in the negotiations—a participation which was not desired in Berlin circles—was due to the same cause."

"WAR INQUIRY" COMES TO CRISIS J. M. JEWELL PATRIARCH

Wilson Says Passage of Resolution Would Be a "Vote of Lack of Confidence"

ATTEMPT BY CONGRESS TO RUN THE WAR

He Does Not Object to Full Investigation of the Air Craft Situation

Washington, May 15.—In a letter to-day to Senator Martin of Virginia, Democratic leader in the Senate, President Wilson declared he would regard passage of the Chamberlain resolution calling for an investigation of aircraft and other war activities, as a direct vote of want of confidence in the administration, and a stamp of Congress to take over conduct of the war.

The president informed Senator Martin that he had no objection to the most searching inquiry into the aircraft situation, but that he deemed inadvisable at this time any investigation of the conduct of the war. At the last session of Congress his opposition to such investigation put an end to proposals that it be made.

It was believed that the president's attitude was due to the form in which Senator Chamberlain, of Oregon, chairman of the Senate military committee, introduced the resolution. The resolution "authorized and directed" the committee "to inquire into and report to the Senate the progress of aircraft and other matters relating to the conduct of the war, by or through the war department."

Objection to the wording of the resolution was made yesterday by several administration senators and also by Senator Thompson of Kansas, chairman of the Senate expenditures committee, to which it was referred and who conferred with the president late yesterday. Senator Thompson has insisted and members of the military committee have agreed to re-draft the resolution to authorize the committee to inquire merely into army activities and not into general conduct of the war.

The text of the president's letter to Senator Martin was not made public. The expenditures committee met to-day to re-draft the resolution. Senator Chamberlain and others of the military committee have declared there was no objection to limiting the scope of the resolution to army operations and have disclaimed any intention of planning any general inquiry into "the conduct of the war."

The only investigation planned by the committee which met to-day to appoint subcommittees to take charge, is into aviation, aircraft patent licensing, ordnance production and the quartermaster general's bureau. These inquiries are regarded by the committee as continuing, divided into separate branches of its recent inquiry.

It has been reported that some senators favor restricting the committee's inquiry to aviation alone. The whole question of the scope of the committee's inquiry is being considered by the Senate committee to-day, upon a report by the expenditures committee of the revised Chamberlain resolution.

The subcommittee, which will investigate ordnance production left to-day, accompanied by Assistant Secretary of War Stettinius and Major General Williams, acting in the name of the government, to inspect the Bethlehem and Midvale ordnance plants. The subcommittee comprised Senator Hitchcock of Nebraska, chairman, and Senators Fletcher of Florida, Beckham of Kentucky, Weeks of Massachusetts and Wadsworth of New York.

House Passed Overman Measure By Vote of 295 to 2 and Bill Is Ready for President's Signature.

Washington, D. C., May 15.—President Wilson had before him to-day for his signature the Overman bill, giving him blanket authority to reorganize government departments. Passage of the measure by the House yesterday ended the long struggle in Congress over the question of delegating additional powers to the executive and cleared the way for the president to effect such changes in government as agency as he desires.

Just what changes under the law are contemplated by the administration have not been indicated.

The bill passed the House, unamended, by a vote of 295 to 2. Representatives Sterling of Illinois, and Gillette of Massachusetts, Republicans, casting the only negative votes.

SAFE WAS ROBBED.

Burglars Ransacked Allen Lumber Co. Office in Depot Square.

Another break in the chain of petty burglaries which have been perpetrated with rather alarming frequency in the past six months was reported at police headquarters to-day as the result of a discovery made by S. D. Allen. When Mr. Allen opened the office of the Allen Lumber Co. in Depot square this morning, he found that someone had removed a window. Further search indicated that the safe had been rifled of \$13. Apparently the thief had sought more loot, for an empty cash drawer had been forced, and there were evidences of ransacking elsewhere about the office. The safe was unlocked and once the burglar had gained his entry, little difficulty was encountered in relieving the depository of its contents.

The police are not sure they will capture the burglar, although a suspect was interviewed to-day after his premises had been searched.

Barre Men Enlisted in Merchant Marine.

Boston, May 15.—Thomas J. Tanguay of 133 Beekley street and Alexander W. Watt of 105 Seminary street, Barre, were among the 70 men who yesterday were accepted at the custom house for training for the new American merchant marine.

Proctorsville Man Elected by Vermont Odd Fellows To-day

GRAND ENCAMPMENT BUYS \$500 BONDS

Good Reports of Progress in Order Were Presented To-day

Attendance at the annual convention of the Odd Fellows, which opened in Barre Monday evening, increased materially to-day with the opening session of the grand encampment of Vermont. The first meeting of the encampment was held in Howland hall at 9 o'clock with a large attendance of delegates, and before noon adjournment came, half of the business had been transacted. The encampment members were in session again this afternoon, and officers elected just before the midday recess will be installed this evening.

Following are the elective officers named for the ensuing year: Grand patriarch, J. M. Jewell of Charles Woodhouse camp, Proctorsville; grand high priest, E. F. Nash of Green Mountain encampment, Burlington; grand secretary, H. L. Russell of Otter Creek encampment, Rutland; grand scribe, Gerry F. Walker of Golden Rule encampment, Montpelier; grand treasurer, Charles G. Staples of Onondaga encampment, Brattleboro; grand junior warden, Eugene E. Campbell of Alhambra encampment, Waterbury.

Despite the difficulties attending the attainment of the greatest efficiency in fraternal work, the grand encampment of Vermont is emerging from one of the most successful years in its history, according to reports made by the various officers at the morning session. The retiring grand patriarch, Elmer E. Jenne of Newport, gave a most encouraging account of the year's achievements, and the tone of optimism permeating his report was also heard in the yearly statements of the subordinate officers. There are 33 subordinate encampments in the state, and all of them appear to be in a flourishing condition.

While the grand encampment deliberated, a motion that the treasurer be empowered to buy Liberty bonds was offered from the floor. It met with the instant approval of the delegates and was quickly carried. The sum fixed was \$500, and it will be invested at once. Legislation whereby the encampments may use more of their funds for patriotic purposes, including war charities, is in the making, and as it seems to be meeting with general indorsement, undoubtedly it will carry before the grand encampment takes its final adjournment.

Exemplification of the grand encampment degree was one of the outstanding features of to-day's session. Twenty-three candidates, representing a large number of encampments, received the degree, the ceremonial being carried out by the grand encampment officers. The work was afterwards reviewed within the hearing of many delegates who had previously witnessed the interesting ceremony.

Odd Fellows' Wives Go Touring.

This forenoon a number of automobiles with drivers were placed at the disposal of Rebekahs and others who accompanied their husbands to Barre for convention week. Most of them enjoyed a ride about town and then elected the trip to the quarries and through Williamstown gulf, a route well traveled by touring parties. The motor parties returned to the city about noon.

The annual meeting of the past grand officers' association will be held in Howland hall this evening at 7 o'clock, when a program of speaking will bring encampment day to its formal close. In deference to the demand for food comfort, the past grand officers will forego the pleasure of their annual banquet. It is expected that Henry V. Borst, a deputy sire of the national lodge, will be present to address the encampment members.

To-morrow will be a full day for the Odd Fellows. The 724 annual session of the grand lodge will open at 9 o'clock, with the grand master, E. A. Spear, of Woodstock, presiding. While the members of the grand body and delegates are in conference, their women guests will be privileged to form more auto parties and tour surrounding towns. The election of grand lodge officers will be held near noon. In the afternoon session, members of the Rebekah degree will be given a reception at Hotel Barre between the hours of 3 and 5 o'clock. At 8 o'clock in the evening, the Rebekah degree is to be exemplified by Ivy lodge of Montpelier.

Many Rebekahs will begin to arrive to-morrow in anticipation of the evening ceremony and the 33rd annual session of the Rebekah assembly at 9 o'clock Friday morning. Mrs. Emma S. Rand of Saxtons River is to preside. Odd Fellows week will close Friday evening with a social gathering in Howland hall.

Decoration of Chivalry Confirmed.

At Howland hall last evening there was a large attendance to witness the conferring of the decoration of chivalry on a member of Canton Vinton of Barre, Major Fred Heath. The drill was in charge of Col. W. E. K. Bennington, the department commander, who was ably assisted by Canton Vinton, as well as by several members of the local Rebekah order. The drill was carried out with due ceremony.

Later in the evening Colonel Frost announced the winners of the competitive drill, which was held yesterday afternoon in Howland hall. A handsome cup was awarded Canton No. 9, the cup being given for the best drilled canton represented in the drill. Major Fred Heath of Barre was awarded a silver medal for the best individual competitive drill, while Major D. V. Stone of Barre was awarded a bronze medal for the second prize in the individual competitive drill.

After the exercises, the attendance was greatly augmented by those who came to attend the dancing, which continued until midnight. Music for the occasion being furnished by Leader Carroll and his musicians. A refreshment booth in one corner, under the charge of several young ladies, proved to be a busy spot throughout the evening's entertainment.

WAR RALLY IN BARRE.

Mrs. Beatrice Forbes-Robertson Hale, Talented Actress, to Be Speaker.

One of a series of War rallies which have been stirring Vermont to its depths during the later winter and spring months will be held in Barre on the evening of Tuesday, May 21, according to partially completed plans announced to-day. That the principal speaker is to be Mrs. Beatrice Forbes-Robertson Hale, lecturer, author and actress, alone insures a large audience, and enough of good old-fashioned patriotic fervor to put the rally on a plane with the war meetings that have been held elsewhere in the state. The meeting is to be held in the opera house, and the Barre committee is arranging for music and other details.

Besides being a lecturer and author of rare gifts, Mrs. Hale has had a successful career on the stage, having played important parts with Sir Henry Irving and Ellen Terry. She was born in New York City Sept. 11, 1883, the daughter of Ian and Gertrude F. (Knights) Forbes-Robertson. She was educated in St. Leonard's school. Her marriage to Swinburn Hale, a New York lawyer, took place in 1910. Her present home is at Forest Hills Gardens, L. I. At the age of 17 she made her debut under Sir Henry Irving in his revival of "Robespierre." In 1907 Mrs. Hale came to America with Ellen Terry, and again in 1908 and 1909 under the direction of Charles Frohman. During its first season, 1910, she was with the New Theatre company in New York.

Among a number of well deserved press notices she has received in Vermont is the following from the Rutland Herald: "The greatest war message given to Rutland was delivered last evening in the high school assembly hall by Mrs. Beatrice Forbes-Robertson Hale in a compelling, overwhelming presentation of facts hammered eloquently and convincingly into the consciousness in a two hours crowded to the utmost with a rehearsal of the most vital facts surrounding the war."

200 MORE MEN CALLED OUT DURING MAY

Unexpected Call Made on Vermont and in the Apportionment Essex and Grand Isle Counties Are Omitted.

An unexpected call for 200 men from Vermont to enter service at Fort Slocum, N. Y., was received by Governor Graham last night and the quota by counties was issued to-day by the adjutant general's office. When these men leave, which is expected to be about May 20, it will make over 1,600 men who have been called for departure from Vermont during the last 15 days of the month. In the new call Essex and Grand Isle counties are omitted.

Provost Marshal General Crowder announced the call as unexpected, saying that 50,000 men were to be summoned to the colors in addition to all the calls which have been previously announced for the month of May. The men must be white and physically qualified for general military service and "must be filled from men within class 1." The 200 men will leave during the five-day period beginning May 20 for Fort Slocum.

Pursuant to that call, Adjutant General Herbert T. Johnson announced the county apportionments as follows:

Addison	15
Bennington	10
Caledonia	9
Chittenden	24
Franklin	16
Lamoille	2
Orange	2
Orleans	13
Rutland No. 1	17
Rutland No. 2	9
Washington	16
Windham	27
Windsor	37

F. H. BROOKS NAMED AS FOOD ADMINISTRATOR

Succeeds James Hartness, Who Resigned Shortly After Being Appointed to Perform Other Government Work.

Springfield, May 15.—Frank Hillard Brooks of St. Johnsbury has been appointed United States food administrator for Vermont, to succeed James Hartness of this place, who was compelled to resign because of the pressure of other war work with which he is connected. Mr. Hartness recently returned from Europe where he went as a member of the United States air craft commission. Mr. Hartness was one of the original state administrators, appointed by President Wilson on the recommendation of Herbert Hoover.

Mr. Brooks is now in Washington, where he was called by Mr. Hoover last week. Upon his return he will open food offices in the State House in Montpelier, the offices of the clerk and speaker of the House having been assigned to him for this purpose by Governor Graham. The new food administrator is a well-known Vermont, who for many years was connected with E. & T. Fairbanks & Co. of St. Johnsbury, having been president of the concern from 1912 until a few months ago. He was appointed by Governor Fletcher a member of the board of commissioners to investigate the educational system of Vermont and at present he is a member of the state board of education.

Washington, D. C., May 15.—The appointment of Frank H. Brooks of St. Johnsbury, Vt., as federal food administrator for that state was approved yesterday by President Wilson. He succeeds James Hartness, who resigned because of the stress of other matters requiring his entire time.

VANCOUVER SHIPYARD DAMAGED \$1,500,000

Fire Started in Boilerroom of J. Coughlin & Sons' Plant Early This Morning—One Fireman Killed.

Vancouver, B. C., May 15.—Fire starting in the boilerroom of the J. Coughlin & Sons shipyard here early this morning did damage estimated at \$1,500,000. One fireman was killed and several injured.

TRACTION CO. PAYS FOR PAVING

Tendered \$7,137.67 Check to City of Barre for Share of Cost of Contract

COMPANY'S BOND MATTER UNSETTLED

Aldermen Get a Complaint About Condition of City Dump

A check for \$7,137.67 received yesterday afternoon by City Treasurer James Mackay and reported by him to the aldermanic board at its regular session last evening serves to discharge the paving obligation which has hung over the Barre & Montpelier Traction & Power company ever since the permanent highway on South Main street was completed last fall. Receipt of the check followed quickly the discharge of a somewhat similar obligation in Montpelier, where the traction company owned an assessment on the Riato bridge. Settlement of both claims came in sequence to the acceptance by the two cities of new franchise agreements.

In the expectation that officials of the traction company were to appear for a conference on the \$10,000 bond, the aldermen continued in session until a rather late hour. The officers stopped in Berlin to talk over matters with the town fathers and planned to come to Barre afterward. City Attorney Wishart and the members of the board looked over a copy of the new agreement. Nothing in the bond is to be furnished by the National Surety company of New York. It forms a part of the franchise which the citizens of Barre voted to accept at the special city meeting March 27, and is to be deposited as a guarantee that the company will fulfill all of its obligations under the new agreement. Nothing in the bond contrary to the intent of the voters was found, and undoubtedly it will be accepted without dissent. With the signing of the agreement, the final chapter in longstanding negotiations between the city and the company will have terminated, and the traction people will be enabled to resume the operation of their cars under the new franchise.

City Dump Complained Of.

Spirited objections to the continued use of an area of land off Brook street for municipal dumping purposes are incorporated in a petition signed by dozens of residents living in the vicinity of the city dump, so called. The petition was presented to the board last night, and Victor Beaulac and L. Camire were present to add their testimony to the grievances recited in the petition. The aldermen were asked to provide a new site for dumping grounds, the claim being made that the location of the present dump is a damage to property as well as to health. Unless a move is made, say the petitioners, the matter will be brought to the attention of the state board of health. In addressing the board, Messrs. Beaulac and Camire declared that the odors from the dump were being blown into the city, and the street committee was directed to investigate Farwell street needs.

Proposed Cemetery Regulations.

New rules to govern the city cemetery are being prepared by the city engineer and cemetery commission for the approval of the aldermen. Very little time was spent on the recommendations, as it was thought best to refer them to the city attorney. There are several changes to be noted, among them being a provision that children under 16 years of age be buried in the cemetery unless accompanied by persons responsible for their conduct. Another rule fixes \$3 as the minimum price for opening graves. Horses, autos, etc., must travel through the cemetery at a pace no faster than a walk, while motorcycles are wholly proscribed. There is also a new rule requiring drivers to stand by their horses, or to keep them well in rein while services are under way. But perhaps the most radical and even pernicious ruling recommended is the provision which would prevent any but employees of the cemetery commission from working on graves, etc., in the cemetery. Once in operation, as was pointed out, the rule would prohibit lot and grave owners from sending a man of their choice into the cemetery to care for their own property. It is said that in certain cases the rule will be a relief from the cemetery, as the rule would enable to pick up a little change by improving the lots owned by people who engaged them.

Bridge Recommendations.

City Engineer F. O. Lee submitted an exhaustive report on his annual inspection of bridges, a report which indicated that the engineering department has given every structure in the city a thorough going-over. Some of the engineer's recommendations were pressingly made, and the whole report was referred to the street committee with instructions to make the repairs as rapidly as finances will permit.

Here is a summary of Mr. Lee's recommendations: Willey street bridge, needs scraping and repainting; Berlin street, needs scraping, painting and a new hand-rail; Blackwell street, needs painting, cleaning and new channel stringers; North Main street, road and walk badly in need of planking; lower Brook street, needs approach extensions and paint; Seminary street, needs painting; Harrington avenue, painting and chinking needed; upper Brook street, needs paint; Granite street, in a dangerous condition, as excessive vibration under light load plainly shows, new bridge needed at once; Prospect street, repainting and new plank walk; Ayers, new planking and paint needed; South Main street, unsafe, needs new props and planks; Mill street, needs painting.

There were 17 births, 19 of them

(Continued on eighth page)